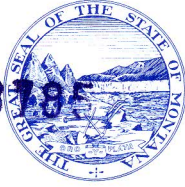


OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR
STATE OF MONTANA

STEVE BULLOCK
GOVERNOR



ANGELA McLEAN
Lt. GOVERNOR

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OFFICE OF THE
EXECUTIVE SECRETARIAT

May 1, 2014

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

The Honorable Kevin Washburn
Assistant Secretary-Indian Affairs
Department of the Interior
MS-3701-MIB
1849 C Street, NW
Washington, D.C. 20240

Re: 25 C.F.R. § 83 Rulemaking and the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians

Dear Secretary Jewell & Assistant Secretary Washburn:

I support the Department of the Interior's ("Department") rulemaking to revise 25 C.F.R. § 83, "Procedures for Establishing that an American Indian Group exists as an Indian Tribe" ("Part 83 Process"). I urge you to continue forward with this work and publish the proposed rule as soon as possible.

This rule revision is important because I believe that the Part 83 Process was not properly administered when the Department of the Interior issued a Final Determination against the Little Shell Tribe of Chippewa Indians of Montana ("Little Shell Tribe") in November of 2009. This Final Determination overturned the Proposed Finding in Favor of Acknowledging the Little Shell Tribe. The Part 83 Process should have determined that the Little Shell Tribe is an Indian tribe of Montana—a designation which is more than 100 years overdue.

Montanans, Montana tribes and the State of Montana all recognize that the Little Shell Tribe is a part of our state's rich culture and history. I support their efforts to become federally recognized and it is time for the Federal Government to finally grant the Little Shell Tribe the recognition they are owed. Federal recognition will enhance their ability to provide additional services to tribal members and strengthen their tribal government. I am encouraged that the Department has seen the need to fix this issue through the Part 83 rulemaking process.

I trust the Department will move swiftly to publish its proposed Part 83 rule and complete the rulemaking process. The Department has my full support in this effort.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "SB", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

STEVE BULLOCK
Governor